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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Michael KILIAN, Stephen TODD, Tom TEUGELS, Jan VAN RIEL,

and Carl D'HALLUIN

Serial No:

10/731,603

Confirmation No:

4744

Filed:

December 9, 2003

For:

METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PARSING A CONTENT ADDRESS TO FACILITATE SELECTION OF A PHYSICAL STORAGE LOCATION IN A DATA STORAGE SYSTEM

Examiner:

Unassigned

Art Unit:

2186

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 2944 day of April, 2004.

Signature

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows: